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Greenwald: Ex-Spies Run Censorship Operations for Tech Giants

On a recent episode of his show 'System Update,' journalist Glenn Greenwald explained how the 'censorship-industrial complex' merges corporate media, big tech and the security state to crack down on dissent.

By **Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.**

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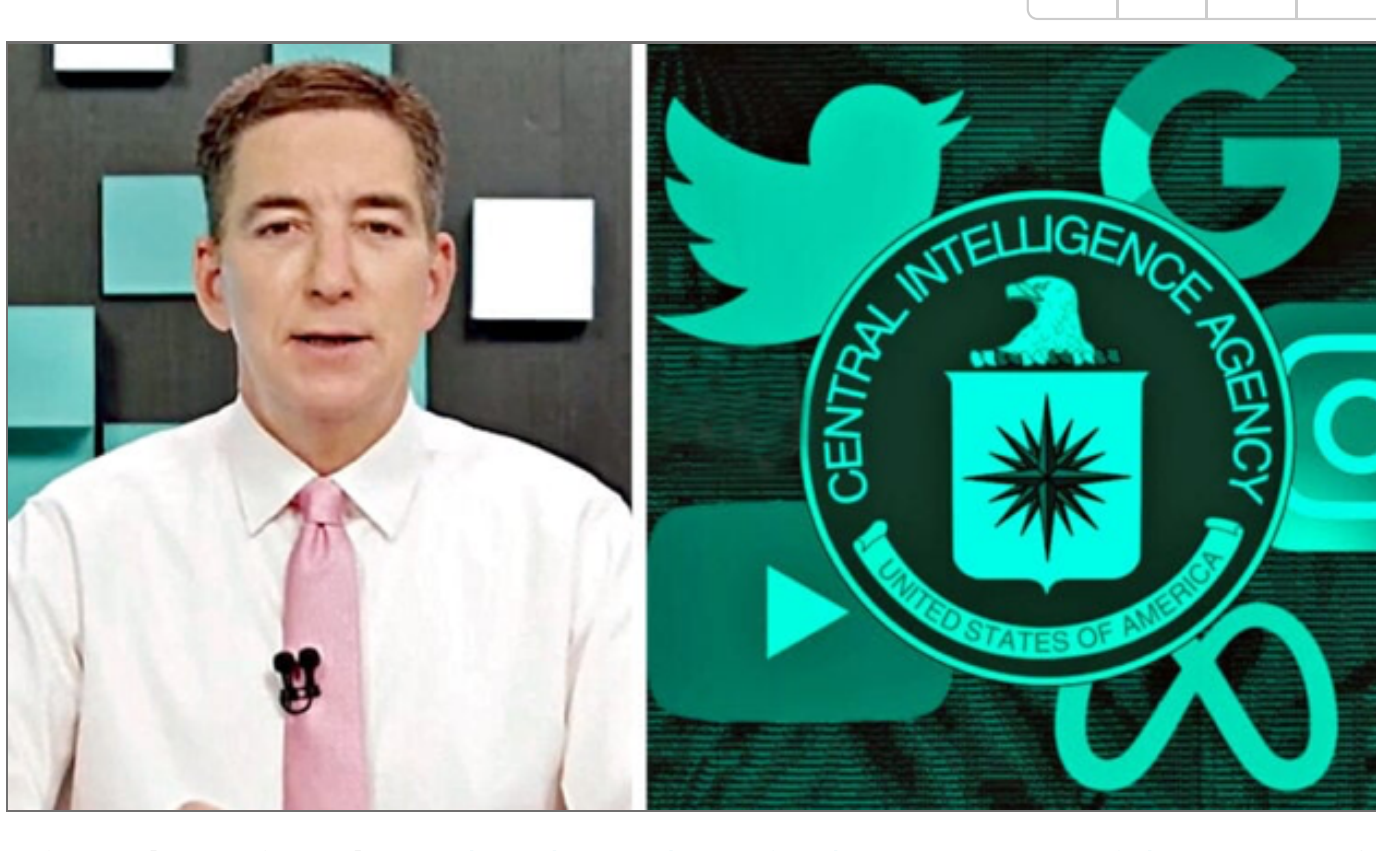

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Former security state operatives occupy the highest positions at Big Tech internet platforms, and are responsible for censoring political content and limiting public debate, Glenn Greenwald reported on Tuesday.

Americans have been aware of security state efforts to control media narratives since the 1970s, when the Senate's Church Committee exposed the CIA's Operation Mockingbird, Greenwald told listeners of his podcast, "System Update."

Under that program, CIA agents covertly infiltrated and influenced the nation's largest news organizations.

Project Mockingbird's exposure greatly embarrassed the media and the government, as the CIA is forbidden from targeting the American public, Greenwald said.

Over the past decade, a series of whistleblowers revealed the U.S. security state has again amped up its covert targeting of American citizens, particularly since the start of the post-9/11 War on Terror.

News that intelligence agencies spied on Americans or infiltrated the news media was considered scandalous just over a decade ago.

But today, things have changed, Greenwald said. In fact, it has become common for top news outlets to openly hire former U.S. security state agents to report and comment on the news.

And in the last few months, the Twitter files and the latest Missouri v. Biden decision made clear how aggressive the censorship regime has become.

The U.S. government, in part, dictates what content social media platforms ought to allow on their sites, Greenwald said. But, he added:

> "There's another element, another layer to it, which is they've infiltrated these Big Tech companies — these ex-CIA agents have — exactly like they've infiltrated corporate news outlets. They're all over these censorship regimes."

Greenwald said top positions at the tech firms are now held by people coming directly from intelligence agencies.

For example James Baker, who the Twitter Files revealed was involved in most censorship decisions prior to Elon Musk's takeover of the platform, worked as general counsel for the FBI before he became deputy counsel for Twitter.

"So the FBI sent its top lawyer to go work in the part of Twitter that censored political content," Greenwald said. "Do you understand? That's the FBI controlling our domestic political discourse and the limits of it."

MintPress News profiled a number of former CIA agents who now manage and develop misinformation policies for Facebook in a July 2022 article that Greenwald shared.

According to the article, the problem isn't that these people are incompetent. "The problem is that having so many former CIA employees running the world's most important information and news platforms is only one small step removed from the agency itself deciding what you see and what you do not see online — and all with essentially no public oversight."

Greenwald said this allows the intelligence agencies to maintain significant influence over news and information flows, while maintaining "some veneer of plausible deniability."

The U.S. government doesn't need to tell the platforms what to do because the people making the decisions rose in the ranks of the National Security State first — "meaning their outlooks match those of Washington's," Greenwald said, quoting MintPress News.

Greenwald said this is evidence of a multi-pronged effort, where on the one side, former security state operatives propagandize the American people on corporate media and on the other side, they control what can be said on the largest Big Tech platforms.

As a result, he said, the entire range of dissenting views is "simply banned."

The 'censorship-industrial complex'

The Twitter account @NameRedacted247 tracks the movement of security state operatives into social media corporations where they work on misinformation and disinformation.

The account provided a thread, which Greenwald's team confirmed, reporting that as of December 2022, Google employed at least 165 people in high-ranking positions from the intelligence community.

Across the company there were 27 former CIA agents, 52 former FBI agents, 30 people who came from the National Security Agency (NSA), 50 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and six from the Director of National Intelligence.

Facebook had at least 115 former security state operatives in high-ranking positions — 17 from the CIA, 37 from the FBI, 23 from the NSA and 38 from DHS.

Google's "trust and safety team," which manages what content is allowed on the platform, is managed by three former CIA agents who control misinformation and hate speech.

One of them, Nick Rossman, referred to "anti-vaxxers" on Twitter as "Nazis" and "Confederates," Greenwald said, asking:

> "Do you think these people are objective arbiters of misinformation? Or do you think they're using their censorship power inside Big Tech for this in the same way that people inside corporate media are using it to advance the propaganda games of these agencies against their own citizens?"

Greenwald presented a series of online profiles of people who worked in intelligence for years or decades before recently moving into their new roles in Big Tech.

Matt Taibbi reported that the companies began hiring former intelligence agents after the 2016 election when the FBI established its social media-focused task force, The Foreign Influence Task Force or FITF.

Since then, a massive "censorship-industrial complex" has grown up, Greenwald said, that includes the U.S. state, philanthropic foundations, "fact-checking" organizations, Big Tech, universities, think tanks, nonprofits and private contractors.

The 'hallmark of totalitarianism'

But the most amazing part of this story, Greewnald said, is the lack of pushback by liberals, who used to be the primary critics of the security state. "Central to left liberal politics was the view that these agencies are nefarious," he said. But that all changed with the Trump presidency:

> "…in 2015, in 2016, the US Security state aligned itself against Donald Trump and devoted itself to sabotaging first the Trump campaign and then the Trump presidency.
>
> "That's where Russiagate came from. That's where all of those scams came from, including the lie in 2020 if the Hunter Biden laptop was misinformation."

And because there are now very few media outlets reporting critically on these agencies, he said, they are at "the peak of their power, more powerful than ever."

Because of that, he said they are embedded in the biggest corporations that control information and propaganda in the U.S. — corporate media and Big Tech.

Greenwald concluded:

> "This is why they're so obsessed with destroying the few outposts of independent media, the few places they cannot control, because without those, they really do have a fully closed information system.
>
> "And a fully closed information system is the hallmark of totalitarianism. If you can control how people think and prevent them from hearing dissent, you can control all of their actions because their actions are based in what their thoughts are.
>
> "And if you can control their thoughts, you don't even need to control their actions. And that is the system that is being created."

Watch here:

Ex-CIA Agents Now Occupy Highest-Ranking Positions in Big Tech. Plus: Raci…

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Brenda Baletti Ph.D. is a reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about capitalism and politics for 10 years in the writing program at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. in human geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's from the University of Texas at Austin.

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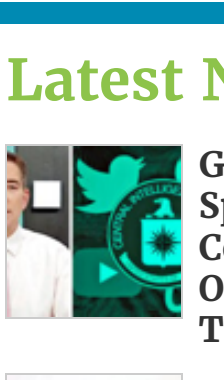

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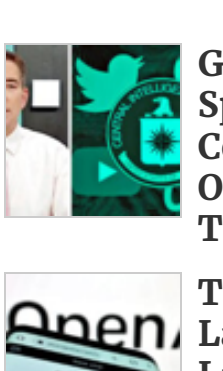

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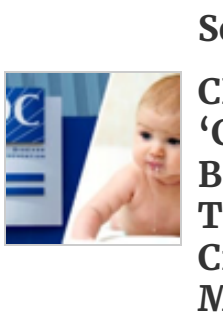

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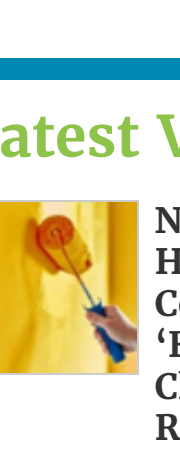

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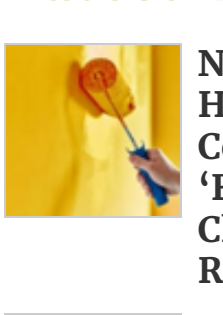

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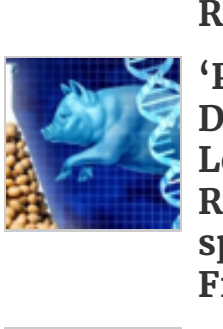

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Heisenberg
2 days ago
Their psyop mind manipulation games have been going on for decades. My general rule is whatever you hear from the government assume the opposite is true (or at least a gross distortion of the truth) and you'll probably be on the right path.
8 0 Reply • Share ›

Beatrice → Heisenberg
5 hours ago
Absolutely! It's been my general rule for over 2 decades now.
1 0 Reply • Share ›

thejuneauraven
2 days ago
Until there's actual consequences for Federal employees acting to suppress free speech, this activity will continue. We need the CLAWS to go with the LAWS. Pensions and employment need to be forfeited and civil penalties like fines and imprisonment need to be imposed. Only then will this partisan censorship activity stop.
5 0 Reply • Share ›

Judith
2 days ago
It would be one thing if all of these former letter agency folk would tell us the real TRUTH about what goes on, but I doubt they do. They are spokespeople for the cabal.
This is a great report. I had no idea.
5 0 Reply • Share ›

Guido Vandeven
2 days ago
Any excuse, any psy-op, any false flag, any noble lie, any Ukraine or other so called emergency to save a deep state democracy, any another Tonkin incident will do to start, which has already started WWIII, to save these mocking birds and paperclips schmucks.
5 0 Reply • Share ›

Fr. David Telemond
2 days ago edited
I shouldn't be surprised that government "spooks" have censoring operations among the High tech Giants. You can bet that if the censoring operations are being conducted among the High Tech Giants, these same operations are being conducted among small and mid-size corporations. From my experience small and mid-size companies do a substantial amount of contract work for the Tech Giants.

San Jose, California is the heart of Silicon Valley. If one were to go to downtown San Jose one would see the skyline is dominated by GOOGLE. It would not take a great deal of imagination to realize that GOOGLE has a great deal of influence on city politics. In all practical purposes the entire county of Santa Clara of which Silicon Valley is a part of has been captured by the East Coast Intelligence agencies.

All of this has it origins when "Big Blue" IBM and LOCKHEED established themselves in Santa Clara County during the 1960's.
3 0 Reply • Share ›

Elwood Bernat → Fr. David Telemond
a day ago
Good stuff, dead on. They pretend not to be in your face, resident employees are metered from smart but naive young upstarts to intellectually hardened liars, deceit is the name of the game, and America and its freedom in which it resides is but a piece of their perpetual game puzzle. Problem: The game perpetuates deceit as a way of defining the players life.
3 0 Reply • Share ›

celtic cross
2 days ago
Perhaps former Big Gubment employees AND politicians need to be restricted from taking certain jobs upon quitting or retirement. One shouldn't profit from public service, nor should they be doing things (ops) that they would not be allowed to do while in gubment employ...Just sayin'. Public service shouldn't be a stepping stone to cozy relationships with Big Anything.
3 0 Reply • Share ›

Laura → celtic cross
5 hours ago
It used to be that way and those Rules are supposedly on the Books.
Like someone here says ....we need Claws with the Laws because bad people are going to disregard and disobey while they can get away with it.
Who is watching the hen house?
1 0 Reply • Share ›

PonyBoy
2 days ago
We all must support the only light in the impending darkness, RFK Jr.
With our help, Bobby can rid our government of those who have sold their souls for 30 pieces of silver.
3 0 Reply • Share ›

Laura → PonyBoy
5 hours ago
But what about Dominion changing machines?
1 0 Reply • Share ›

celtic cross → PonyBoy
2 days ago
Bobby has a problem with mothers attempting to take back public schooling. He backed out of a commitment to speak at Moms For Liberty. Not cool...unless he's for indoctrination of children in order that Big Med can make oodles of $$$$$. He should not have done that. I'm an Independent, and he would not get my vote for that reason.
0 0 Reply • Share ›

Beatrice → celtic cross
5 hours ago
You would not vote for him just on that one reason? Try stepping away from your forest to see the trees a bit more clearly. There are too many threats today against our children, our families and people in general. The schooling indoctrination is just a symptom of a much larger threat and Mr. Kennedy is well aware and must decide where is time and effort will be most effective in the long run. A country that values liberty will enforce those values across the board- in education as well as economics and family values. Mr. Kennedy is currently confronting a nation that has lost or forgotten it's values and he's working very hard to restore them. I believe he is sincere, worthy of trust and has my vote.
0 0 Reply • Share ›

Laura → Beatrice
5 hours ago edited
Trust and continually verify.
Lots of dead women around the Kennedy men.
Now known as "Arkancides."
1 0 Reply • Share ›

Madhava Setty
2 days ago
This is an exceedingly important article. Great Job Brenda Baletti, Defender and Glenn Greenwald.
2 0 Reply • Share ›

Judith
2 days ago
I love this guy! Good show. Thanks.
2 0 Reply • Share ›

Dean Jackson
2 days ago edited
"Greenwald: Ex-Spies Run Censorship Operations for Tech Giants"

You don't know the worst of it, these former intelligence officers are Marxists, brought into the various agencies after the firing of CIA Cunterintelligence Chief James Angleton, along with 80% of his Counterintelligence Staff,* explaining how John Brennan was allowed to join the CIA, even though he told his polygraph examiner that he voted for CPUSA presidential candidate Gus Hall for president, telling the examiner he did so "for change"! As such, Gus Hall, as with all Marxist, follows Marx's directive to implement "The Struggle", The Struggle meaning the "requirement...[for the] abolition of religion"...

"The struggle against religion is, therefore, indirectly the struggle against that world whose spiritual aroma is religion."

"The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is required for their real happiness. The demand to give up the illusion about its condition is the demand to give up a condition which needs illusions."

"It is, therefore, the task of history, once the other-world of truth has vanished, to establish the truth of this world."

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1 0 Reply • Share ›

Elwood Bernat → Dean Jackson
a day ago
Question for Marx: Who's illusion? By all human standards which Marx did not concur, he was a petulantly selfish intellectual leech.
1 0 Reply • Share ›

Dean Jackson → Elwood Bernat
a day ago
"Question for Marx: Who's illusion? By all human standards which Marx did not concur, he was a petulantly selfish intellectual leech."

Notice what Marx said, giving the game away that he was a [vindictive] theist...

"It is, therefore, the task of history, once the other-world of truth has vanished, to establish the truth of this world."

The truth of God is absolute truth, as Marx would know as a "lapsed" Lutheran, but anything that humans call truth is an oxymoron, because humans aren't omniscient like God.

By the way, being a political scientist, look what I discovered back in 2014...

Marx's Gordian Knot

Marx's definition of capital is surplus value (surplus value, and capital, says Marx, being peculiar to capitalist production):

see more
2 0 Reply • Share ›

Laura → Dean Jackson
4 hours ago
Excellent, thank you.
2 0 Reply • Share ›

Larry Cox
a day ago
The interesting thing to me is that this undue influence does not seem to be coming from the people with financial interests in censorship, such as Big Pharma. It is coming from people who have a political/propaganda interest. What is motivating them to do what they are doing?

The only answer I have is that because they are attached to the Intelligence Community, they know something that we don't know. This doesn't make them right. Because there could be a propaganda operation being played on them, too. Are they operating on some secret knowledge for our benefit, or in a selfish attempt to save their own skins? It's not clear yet.

We have the Dave Grusch information that I believe is key but has been largely ignored. No "sensible" person wants to believe in an ET presence of Earth, even though it is the most sensible explanation to our current situation. Whether the IC operatives have a better plan or are simply running scared (which I suspect) remains to be fully determined. But I don't see why any secret or planetary threat is worth destroying our freedoms over. Do you?
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